

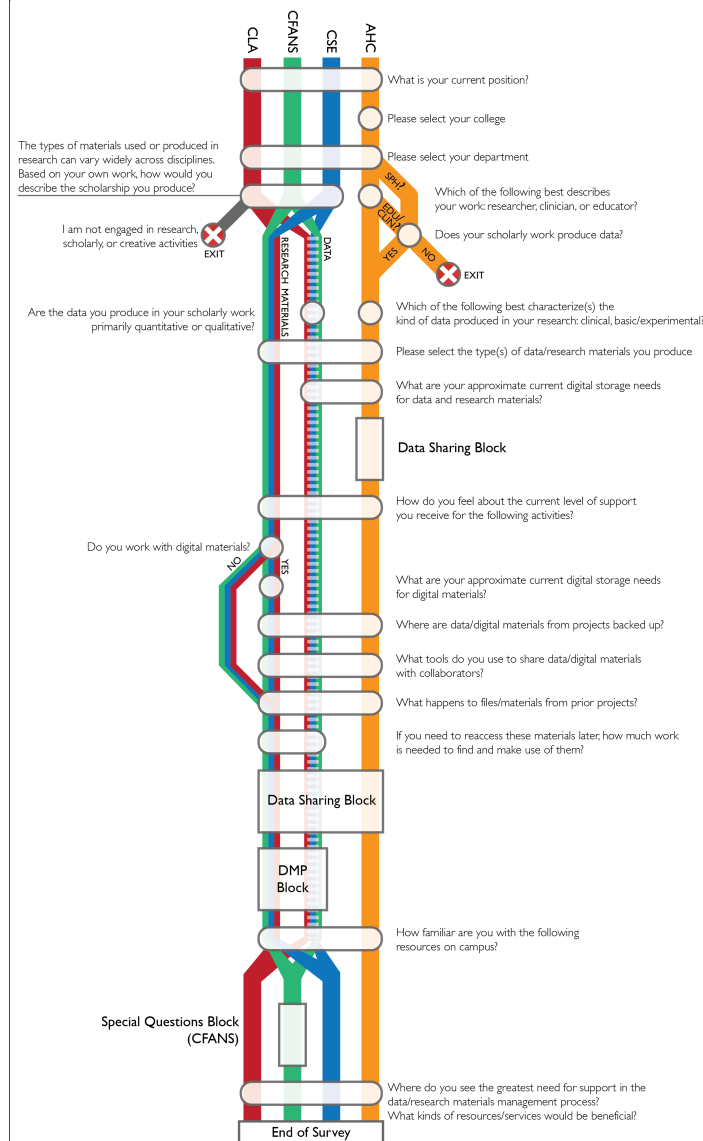
Understanding Researcher Needs in Data Management

A Comparison of Four Colleges in a Large American University

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University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Our Survey

We surveyed researchers in four University of Minnesota colleges about their data management needs. The survey terminology branched based on how researchers described their work (“data” or “research materials”).

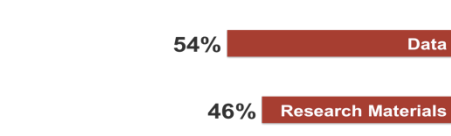


Data Management Survey Results, All Colleges (n=726)

College of Liberal Arts (CLA)

Survey date: Fall 2013

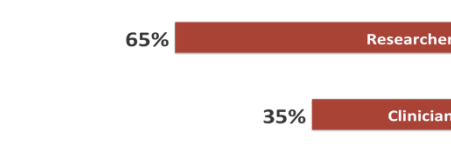
172 responses from 29 departments
(30% response rate)



Academic Health Center (AHC)

Survey date: Summer 2014

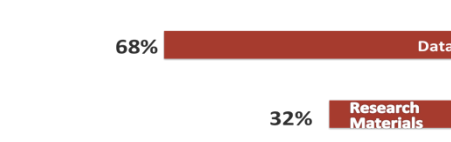
329 responses* from 6 schools.



College of Science & Engineering (CSE)

Survey date: Fall 2014

79 responses from 12 departments
(18% response rate).



College of Food, Agricultural, & Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS)

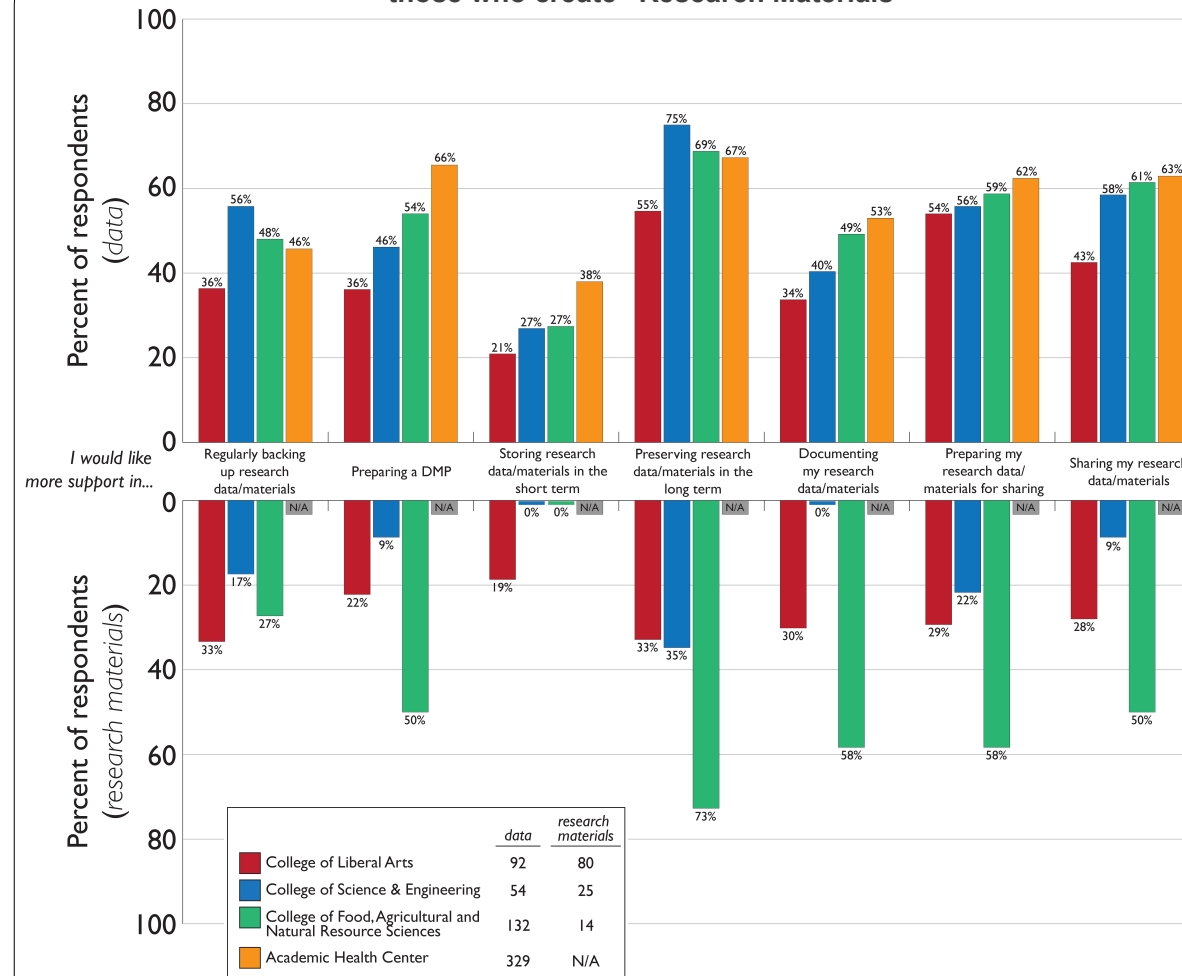
Survey date: Spring 2015

146 responses* from 14 departments

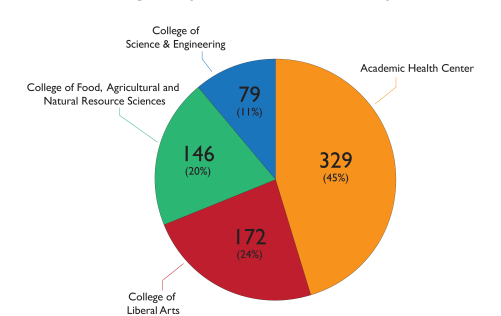


* Surveys were distributed via researcher listservs, therefore the total number of potential respondents is uncertain

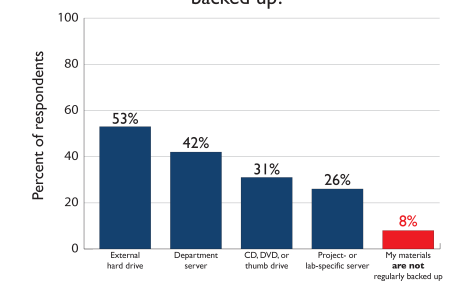
Responses, by college, from researchers who create “Data” and those who create “Research Materials”



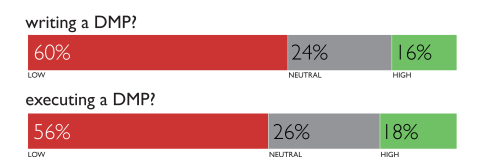
Colleges represented in total responses



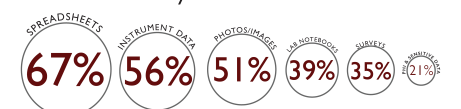
Where are your research data/materials backed up?



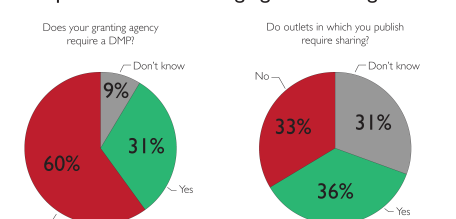
How confident do you feel about...



What materials are commonly used in your research?



Requirements for managing and sharing data



What We Learned

These survey results suggest disciplinary differences in how researchers describe their work (“data” or “research materials”) and for which tasks they see the greatest need for data management support. A large research university must respond to diverse scholarly needs, and these data can be used to inform the development of research data services that are sensitive to discipline-specific practices.

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Download the Survey Tool

z.umn.edu/DMsurvey15